

Message Text

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51

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 DPW-01 AID-20 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 DRC-01

/148 W

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R 201123Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6697

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMCONSUL UDORN

CINCPAC

CDR USSAG NKP

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 7896

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LA

SUBJECT: CONTINUED LPF PERSONNEL/CARGO ARRIVES

REF: VIENTIANE 7895

1. THERE WERE NO LPF ARRIVALS IN EITHER VIENTIANE OR LUANG PRABANG NOVEMBER 18. ON THE 19TH, EIGHT CHINESE IL-14 AND TWO AN-12 FLIGHTS ARRIVED LUANG PRABANG. ON BOARD WERE: ONE MILITARY MAN IN UNIFORM, 260 CASES OF CANNED MEAT, 137 CASES OF CIGARETTES, 250 SACKS OF RICE, MISCELLANEOUS FURNISHINGS, 40 ROLLS OF BARBED WIRE, ONE 2 1/2 TON TRUCK LOADED WITH UNKNOWN CARGO, ONE SOVIET GAZ-67B TRUCK, AND 30 CASES AK-47 AMMUNITION.

2. THESE DELIVERIES BRING UNOFFICIAL TOTAL OF LPF IN LUANG PRABANG TO 949. NUMBER IN VIENTIANE (I.E., 1,379) REMAINS UNCHANGED.

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3. ACCORDING TO XAT LAO STORY NOVEMBER 20, THE RLG DELEGATION TO JOINT COMMISSION TO IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT, AS REPORTED REFTTEL, DID APPROVE THE LPF REQUEST FOR A THIRD CONTINGENT OF 200 MEN AND 335 TONS OF MATERIAL TO COME TO VIENTIANE. ARTICLE STATED THAT DELIVERIES WERE APPROVED FOR PERIOD NOVEMBER 21 TO DECEMBER 5 (EXCLUDING SUNDAYS, NOVEMBER 25 AND DECEMBER 2).

4. XAT LAO ALSO STATES LPF NOW HAVE 877 PERSONNEL IN LUANG PRABANG WHEN ALLEGEDLY LPF SHOULD HAVE ONLY 823 MEN (I.E., 500 POLICE, 300 MILITARY AND 23 CIVILIANS). IN ADDITION, SAME ARTICLE ALLEGES LPF SHOULD HAVE ONLY 1,730 (I.E., 1,000 POLICE, 600 MILITARY AND 130 CIVILIANS) IN VIENTIANE, BUT THAT THE LPF SAY 1,359 (594 POLICE, 418 MILITARY AND 347 CIVILIANS) HAVE ALREADY ARRIVED, WHILE THE RLG SAYS 1,548 (I.E., 945 MILITARY, 191 POLICE AND 412 CIVILIANS) HAVE ARRIVED. THEREFORE, ACCORDING TO XAT LAO, RLG BELIEVES ONLY 182 ADDITIONAL LPF SHOULD BE SENT TO VIENTIANE AND THE PROJECTED DELIVERY OF 200 LPF PERSONNEL WOULD SURPASS THE AGREED QUOTA FOR VIENTIANE.

5. COMMENT: WE CONSIDER XAT LAO STORY TO BE A TEMPEST IN A TEAPOT, SINCE QUOTED MAXIMUM FIGURES MENTIONED BY XAT LAO ARE NOT TO BE FOUND IN EITHER THE VIENTIANE AGREEMENT OR ITS PROTOCOL. PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID HE INTENDS TO ENFORCE LIMITS SET ON ALLOWABLE MILITARY FORCES, BUT THAT HE IS NOT CONCERNED ABOUT NUMBER OF LPF CIVILIANS WHO MIGHT COME TO EITHER VIENTIANE OR LUANG PRABANG.
WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIR TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNIST FRONT ORGANIZATIONS, PERSONNEL TRAVEL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: collinp0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973VIENTI07896
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731121/aaaaapgl.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: VIENTIANE 7895
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: collinp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29-Nov-2001 by thigpegh>; APPROVED <07 MAR 2002 by collinp0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONTINUED LPF PERSONNEL/CARGO ARRIVES
TAGS: PINS, PINT, LA, LPF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005